

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 IO-11 AID-05

OMB-01 SNM-02 DEAE-00 AGR-05 CU-02 EUR-12 OES-03 /119 W
----- 104891

R 031010Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1081

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

DEA BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMCSOUL UDORN BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA #9

1. VISIT OF IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER (UNCLAS)

FOREIGN MINISTER DR. SADOUM HAMMADI MADE BRIEF VISIT TO RANGOON
FEB 28-MARCH 1 DURING WHICH HE CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER U SEIN
WIN AND FOREIGN MINISTER U HLA PHONE. VISIT LARGELY INFORMAL;
PM FOR INSTANCE RECEIVED THE IRAQI OFFICIAL BUT WAS NOT WEARING
FORMAL BURMESE GARB NORMALLY USED TO GREET HIGH LEVEL DIGNITAR-
IES. NO JOINT STATEMENT WAS ISSUED AT THE END OF VISIT.

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2. VII CENTRAL PEOPLE'S PEASANTS COUNCIL MEETING (UNCLAS)

CENTRAL PEOPLE'S PEASANTS COUNCIL COMPLETED ITS 7TH ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 1. DELEGATES WERE TREATED TO SAME EXHORTATIONS FOR GREATER EFFORTS AND MORE PRODUCTION THAT THEY HAD HEARD IN EACH OF PAST SIX MEETINGS. THESE EXHORTATIONS PERHAPS BEST TYPIFIED AND SUMMARIZED BY THE TWO SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY COUNCIL: (1) EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION WORK BE CARRIED OUT SO THAT MASS OF PEASANTS TAKE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN REORGANIZATION OF PEASANTS COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOCIALIST DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE AND (2) ALL-OUT EFFORTS BE MADE FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF 1976-77 ECONOMIC PLAN. (COMMENT: DETAILS OF PLAN WERE NOT REVEALED TO DELEGATES). ONE REPORT TO COUNCIL DID NOTE THAT STATE EMPLOYEES RELUCTANT TO WORK IN REMOTE AREAS AND URGED THAT THEY BE GIVEN SPECIAL ALLOWANCES AND OTHER INCENTIVES TO ACCEPT SUCH ASSIGNMENTS. PERHAPS TO UNDERSCORE GUB INTEREST IN BURMA'S HINDERLANDS, TOP LEVEL OFFICIALS MADE TRIPS TO SUCH REGIONS WHILE MEETING IN PROGRESS. BSPP GENERAL SECRETARY, GENERAL SAN YU TOURED CHIN STATE AND PRIME MINISTER U SEIN WIN AND DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER U AUNG BWINT VISITED AKYAB IN ARAKAN STATE.

3. MORE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS SUSPENDED (UNCLAS)

FOLLOWING CRACKDOWN ON CORRUPT TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OFFICIALS IN MOGOK (WEEK 5, ITEM 6), PRESS MARCH 2 DEADLINE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT TOP OFFICIALS IN WUNTHO TOWNSHIP (SAGAING DIVISION) HAD BEEN SUSPENDED ON ORDER OF STATE COUNCIL SECRETARY-GENERAL SAN YU FOR "BEING OF BAD MORAL CHARACTER AND ABUSING POWER FOR PERSONAL GAIN." TEN OFFICIALS WERE LISTED INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TOWNSHIP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF INSPECTORS AND THE COMMITTEE OF JUDGES. COMMENT: REMOVAL OF CORRUPT TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS IS APPARENTLY PART OF CURRENT MORALITY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN.

4. UBA'S LABOR TROUBLES (UNCLAS)

UBA SERVICE FROM BANGKOK IS EVEN SLOWER THAN USUAL THESE DAYS AS A RESULT OF A STRIKE BY THAI EMPLOYEES OF UBA AT BANGKOK AIRPORT. HEART OF DISPUTE, WHICH HAS BEEN SIMMERING FOR SOME TIME, IS UBA'S FAILURE TO PAY PERIODIC BONUSES REQUIRED BY THAI LABOR LAW; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHER THAI AIRPORT WORKERS REPORTEDLY ARE SUPPORTING THE STRIKING UBA EMPLOYEES. UBA HAS SUPPLEMENTED ITS STAFF IN BANGKOK WITH TWO ADDITIONAL BURMESE EMPLOYEES TO TIDE IT OVER UNTIL FUNDS CAN BE SCRAPED UP.

5. GUB, RTG TO CLOSE CONSULATES (LOU)

THE BURMESE CONSULATE IN CHAING MAI AND THE THAI CONSULATE IN

KENG TUNG ARE BEING CLOSED, APPARENTLY AT THE REQUEST OF THE GUB. ACCORDING TO THAI PRESS, BURMESE SIMPLY SAID CONSULATES "ARE UNNECESSARY NOW"; MFA OFFICIALS CLAIMED CLOSURE PART OF GUB ECONOMY MOVE SINCE CHANG MAI OF MARGINAL INTEREST TO GUB. IN ADDITION, THE BURMESE CONSUL, MIS MAJOR OHN TUN, IS KNOWN TO BE BORED AND UNHAPPY WITH WHAT HE EVIDENTLY CONSIDERS AS A "NON-JOB". BURMESE APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF MONITORING ACTIVITIES OF INSURGENTS OPERATING FROM NORTHERN THAILAND WITHOUT CONSULATE.

6. BURMESE ROAD TO COMMERCIALISM (LOU)

IN KEEPING WITH NEW GUB EDICT THAT CORPORATIONS MUST BE RUN ON COMMERCIAL BASIS, DIRECTORS, MANAGERS AND OFFICIALS FROM ALL GUB CORPORATIONS HAVE BEEN ORDERED REPEAT ORDERED TO MAKE A PROFIT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE OPERATIONS DURING COMING YEAR. IN MEETING WITH HOTEL MANAGERS, FOR EXAMPLE, GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OFFICIALS TOLD THEM THEY MUST SHOW A PROFIT OR MAKE UP ANY LOSS FROM THEIR OWN POCKETS. ONE BRAVE MANAGER INQUIRED THAT SINCE MANAGERS MUST MAKE GOOD ANY OPERATIONAL LOSS, COULD THEY ALSO SHARE IN ANY PROFITS THEIR ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT MAKE. THE ANSWER:NO, BUT THOSE WHOSE OPERATIONS SHOW A PROFIT WILL BE GIVEN CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION.

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7. NARCOTICS: CENTRAL NARCOTICS BOARD FORMED (UNCLAS)

A NATION-WIDE ANTI-NARCOTICS ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN FORMED WITH THE MINISTER OF HOME AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AS CHAIRMAN AND THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENSE AS VICE-CHAIRMAN. EIGHT MAIN COMMITTEES MAKE UP THE BOARD AND ARE COMPOSED TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF DRUG ABUSE, INCLUDING TRAFFICKING, CROP SUBSTITUTION, REHABILITATION, AND OTHERS. U THA AUNG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE, WAS THE AUTHOR OF THE BOARD'S CHARTER. (SEE RANGOON A-017 FOR DETAILS).

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8. NARCOTICS: LO HSING-HAN (UNCLAS)

LOCAL PAPERS ON FEBRUARY 26 NOTED THAT CENTRAL COURT TURNED DOWN AN APPEAL FOR REVISION OF CHARGES AGAINST LO AND DIRECTED THAT HIS TRIAL BE CONTINUED. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PROSECUTION ALSO APPLIED FOR A SECOND SET OF CHARGES AGAINST LO FOR THE SAME OFFENSES. THAT APPLICATION WAS ACCEPTED: THUS, LO STANDS ACCUSED TWICE OF TREASON AND ECONOMIC CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE.

9. NARCOTICS: TALKS ON DRUG PROBLEMS (UNCLAS)

DR. PE THEIN, RECTOR, MANDALAY INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE, AIDED BY DR. DAW MYA MYA WIN, HEART SPECIALIST, SPOKE TO OVER 2,000 PARENTS AND YOUTH AT A GATHERING IN MANDALAY ON FEBRUARY 22. THE LECTURES EMPHASIZED PHYSICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL ASPECTS OF HEROIN ADDICTION. DR. PE THEIN ENCOURAGED THE ORGANIZATION OF TEAMS TO VISIT MANDALAY WARDS AND LECTURE ON DRUG PROBLEMS.

10. NARCOTICS: SEIZURES (UNCLAS)

NEWS ARTICLES DURING THE WEEK GAVE ACCOUNTS OF THREE SEPARATE ACTIONS WHICH NETTED NEARLY 175,000 KYAT WORTH OF HEROIN SEIZED AND SEVEN OFFENDERS ARRESTED. IN ONE RAID, 150,000 KYAT WORTH OF HEROIN SEIZED FROM TWO CARS APPARENTLY ABOUT READY TO MAKE A DELIVERY.

11. UPSWING IN CULTURAL EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES (UNCLAS)

TWO AMERICAN TENNIS PROFESSIONALS, MICHAEL MULLAN AND LARRY PARKER, ENDED AN EIGHT-DAY VISIT TO BURMA DURING WHICH THEY CONDUCTED SEVEN TENNIS CLINICS WITH BURMA'S SELECTED PLAYERS AND PLAYED TWO EXHIBITION MATCHES AGAINST BURMA'S NO. 1 AND 2 PLAYERS. MATCHES WERE EVENLY DIVIDED, THE AMERICANS AND BURMESE WINNING TWO SETS EACH AT THE EXHIBITIONS WHICH DREW CAPACITY CROWDS. DURING THE SAME TIME, JAPANESE GOODWILL GOLFER HIDEYO SUGIMOTO CONDUCTED GOLFING CLINICS AND EXHIBITION MATCHES IN RANGOON. "BIG SUGI", AS HE IS POPULARLY KNOWN, PRAISED AMERICAN GOLFING METHODS AND TECHNIQUES AND SAID HE FAVORED PROMISING YOUNG ASIAN PLAYERS "GOING TO PLAY ABROAD, ESPECIALLY IN AMERICA, TO GAIN EXPERIENCE AND PROFIT FROM THE HARD GRIND OF TOUGH COMPETITION." THE PAKISTAN EMBASSY INAUGURATED A WEEK-LONG EXHIBITION OF GAND-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HARA SCULPTURES FROM PESHAWAR. THE EXHIBIT, PLACED AT ENVOY HALL, CONSISTED OF REPLICAS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DEPICTING THE SITE OF TAXILA AND BUDDHIST FIGURES. THE ENTIRE COLLECTION WILL BE PRESENTED TO GUB UPON COMPLETION OF THE PUBLIC EXHIBITION.

FINALLY, THE BULGARIAN MINISTER OF ARTS AND CULTURE, MRS. LYUDMILA ZHIVKOVA, ACCOMPANIED BY A FOUR-MAN DELEGATION BRIEFLY VISITED WITH BURMESE MINISTER OF CULTURE, U AYE MAUNG, ON AN OVERNIGHT VISIT IN RANGOON.

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